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REMARKS

OBJECTION TO THE ABSTRACT

The Abstract is objected to because there are numbers at lines 9, 10, 13-17 and 20. The Abstract has been amended to delete said numbers. Thus, the Abstract is believed to be in form for allowance.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claims 1-9 are objected to because "thitherto" is utilized. Since the term "thitherto" appears to be redundant, the term "thitherto" has been deleted from claims 1, 4 and 7. Since claims 2-3, 5-6 and 8-9 depend from amended claims 1, 4 and 7, respectively, claims 2-3, 5-6 and 8-9 are submitted to be allowable for at least the reasons that amended claims 1, 4 and 7 are submitted to be allowable.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112

In the Office Action, at page 2, numbered paragraphs 3-4, claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for the reasons set forth therein. This rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

With respect to the terminology "whether ...or not," the claims have been amended to delete "or not" to avoid redundancy.

It is respectfully submitted that, in accordance with Meriam-Webster OnLine, the term "purport" refers to "meaning conveyed, professed, or implied" (see enclosure of said definition). The term "purport" is utilized on page 3, line 18 of the specification and in claims 1, 4 and 7:

In a screen display control method for individually displaying conditions of each of a plurality of constituents of a system in a form of a loop on a screen, a total number A (A is a positive integer) of objects to be displayed regarding the said constituents and a total number B (B is a positive integer) of individual displays on the screen are compared so that, when A is greater than B, a collective group indicating that purport is displayed on a part of the said part in the form of the loop, and at the same time each of the said objects to be displayed corresponding to B is individually displayed. Then, based on an instruction of a revolving display, any number of the said objects to be displayed corresponding to the said collective group are newly displayed individually, and at the same time the said number of the said objects to be displayed that have been displayed individually ~~thitherto~~ are shifted into the said collective group.

Nevertheless, for clarity, a portion of claim 1, and claims 4 and 7 in similar fashion, has been amended to recite: " a first step-operation of comparing a total number A (A is a positive integer) of objects to be displayed regarding said constituents and a total number B (B is a positive integer) of individual displays on the screen so as to, when A is greater than B, display a collective object-group indicating that ~~purport on a part of said part in the form of the loop,~~ which represents that A is greater than B, as one of the objects arranged along the loop, and at the same time individually display ~~each a part of said objects to be displayed corresponding to B~~ along the loop; and ..." Thus, claims 1, 4 and 7 are now believed to be clear.

It is respectfully submitted that, in accordance with Meriam-Webster OnLine, the term a "loop" is "a series of instructions (as for a computer) that is repeated until a terminating condition is reached" (see enclosure of said definition). In the specification, page 1, lines 8-14, the terminology "loop" is explained:

The present invention relates to a screen display control for individually displaying conditions of each of a multitude of system constituents, for example, conditions (operating conditions, etc.) of a plurality of nodes (computers) and resources thereof constituting a cluster system, in a loop-form on a screen.

FIG. 2 of the present invention (see lines 9-11 of page 4 of the specification) is "an explanatory illustration showing a cluster system display with the number of nodes being n of the present invention." It should be noted that the cluster system display is arranged in a loop. The description of the embodiment of FIG. 2 explains the arrangement of the loop of nodes:

Embodiments of the present invention will be described using FIG. 2 to FIG. 12.

It is noted that, for convenience' sake in explanation, the following embodiments are premised on a case of displaying on a screen operating conditions of system constituents, such as nodes and various resources thereof, in a cluster system connected with a plurality of nodes (computers). Additionally, a revolving display unit is one system constituent.

A first embodiment of the present invention will be described using FIG.2 and FIG.3. FIG.2 is an illustration explaining a cluster system display with the number of nodes being n, and FIG.3 shows a resource display of an abnormal node shown in FIG.2. In a screen 1 shown in FIG.2, each of

- a right-side individual display group from an icon of a node 1 to a node icon 12
- a node collective icon 11 and
- a left-side individual display group from a node icon 13 to an icon of a node n

is displayed counterclockwise in sequence along a loop 2 by a three-dimensional graphics.

In each of node icons individually displayed,

- operation control information indicating the node being normal/abnormal and
- related information (illustration omitted), such as a name, a type and an

installation location of the node, etc. are displayed. In a case shown in FIG.2, an icon of a node 3 and a node icon 14 are highlighted so as to indicate that each of the nodes corresponding to these icons is in an abnormal condition.

(emphasis added)

For clarity, a portion of claim 1, and claims 4 and 7 in correspondence, has been amended as recited above.

Thus, it is now submitted to be clear that, the first operation of claim 1 particularly points out and distinctly claims the subject matter to explain that in an embodiment of the method of the present invention (separated and bolded to facilitate understanding):

a first operation of

comparing a total number A (A is a positive integer) of **objects to be displayed** regarding said constituents and **a total number B** (B is a positive integer) of **individual displays** on the screen

so as to, when A is greater than B, display a collective object, which represents that A is greater than B, as one of the objects arranged along the loop, and at the same time

display a part of said objects along the loop; and ...

Independent claims 4 (a device) and 7 (a computer-readable recording medium) contain similar, but not identical limitations.

Hence, since independent claims 1, 4 and 7 are now submitted to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, which applicant regards as the invention, and since claims 2-3, 5-6 and 8-9 depend from amended claims 1, 4, and 7, claims 2-3, 5-6 and 8-9 are submitted to be clear and distinct for at least the reasons that amended claims 1, 4 and 7 are submitted to be clear and distinct under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

In the Office Action, at pages 3-4, numbered paragraphs 5-6, claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Prouty, IV et al. (USPN 6,097,939; hereafter, Prouty, IV et al.). This rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Independent claims 1, 4 and 7 have been amended for clarity.

The Prouty, IV et al. reference discloses a display in which a plurality of sub-references are indicated in a three-dimensional manner and the displayed sub-resources are indicated in a three-dimensional manner and the displayed sub-resources are rotated. Nowhere does the Prouty, IV et al. reference disclose or suggest a display of a plurality of sub-resources in an arrangement of a two-dimensional loop and indication of a total set (collective object) as a part of the loop, as is discussed in independent claims 1, 4 and 7 of the present application.

Additionally, the Prouty, IV et al. reference does not disclose a method of display to cause the sub-sources moving in and out of the part of the loop representing the total set while revolving.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 1, 4, and 7 are not anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) by Prouty, IV et al. (USPN 6,097,939). Since claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, and 9 depend from amended independent claims 1, 4, and 7, it is submitted that claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, and 9 are not anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) by Prouty, IV et al. (USPN 6,097,939) for at least the reasons that amended independent claims 1, 4, and 7 are submitted not to be anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) by Prouty, IV et al. (USPN 6,097,939).

NEW CLAIM

New claim 10 recites that the features of the present invention include a screen display control device to display operating conditions of each of a plurality of constituents of a system in a loop individually on a screen, the device comprising: an individual display unit to compare a first number of the operating conditions to be displayed and a second number of individual screen displays, and where the first number is greater than the second number, to display a collective group in a loop indicating the operating conditions, and simultaneously, to display a predetermined number of said individual screen displays; and a shifting unit to display said operating conditions newly and individually corresponding to said collective group in response to an instruction signal, and simultaneously to shift said operating conditions that have been displayed individually into said collective group.

Nothing in the prior art teaches or suggests such. It is submitted that the new claim distinguishes over the prior art.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1-9 have been amended. New claim 10 has been added. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-10 are pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot, and further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date:

April 19, 2004

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loop[1,noun] ▲ Go
 loop[2,noun] ▲
 loop[3,verb] ▲
 closed loop ▲
 ground loop ▲
 Henle's loop ▼

Main Entry: ²**loop**

Function: *noun*

Etymology: Middle English *loupe*, of unknown origin

1 a : a curving or doubling of a line so as to form a closed or partly open curve within itself through which another line can be passed or into which a hook may be hooked **b :** such a fold of cord or ribbon serving as an ornament

2 a : something shaped like a loop **b :** a circular airplane maneuver executed in the vertical plane

3 : a ring or curved piece used to form a fastening, handle, or catch

4 : a closed electric circuit

5 : a piece of film or magnetic tape whose ends are spliced together so as to project or play back the same material continuously

6 : a series of instructions (as for a computer) that is repeated until a terminating condition is reached

7 : a sports league

8 : a select well-informed inner circle that is influential in decision making <out of the policy *loop*>

- **for a loop :** into a state of amazement, confusion, or distress

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